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BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Correspondence and Documents during Roger Wolcott's Governorship of the Colony of Connecticut, 1750-1754. Edited by ALBERT C. BATES. [Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society, vol. XVI.] (Hartford: The Society. 1916. Pp. xxxv, 557. \$3.00.)

ALTHOUGH the period covered by this volume is marked by few events that are specially noteworthy in the history of Connecticut, the documents here printed are in many ways among the most useful that the Connecticut Historical Society has issued in its valuable series of governors' letters and papers. Many of them concern problems that had long troubled the authorities of the colony, such as the Mohegan controversy, of which everyone concerned must have been heartily sick by this time; the boundary quarrel with Massachusetts, regarding which Wolcott remarked in one of his letters, "There is not the least prospect here that the Massachusetts will ever agree to settle the line, they only want us to fall into a drouse and then take advantage of us"; the question of taxing the Church of England men; and the disposal of the appropriation made by Parliament to recompense Connecticut for the share she had taken in the late war—all of which were unsettled matters holding over from the previous administration. But in addition many new problems of larger import appear, chief among which are the attempt of the West India merchants and agents in England to revive the lost bill of 1731, prohibiting trade with the foreign West Indies; the appointment by Gov. Wentworth of New Hampshire, the surveyor general of the woods, of a deputy surveyor for Connecticut; the act of Parliament forbidding the issue of paper money in New England; the plans of the Susquehanna Company for a settlement in the Wyoming Valley; and the proposed meeting of the commissioners at Albany, which resulted in the Albany Conference of 1754. Most notorious of all is the Spanish ship-case, the details of which cannot be given here, but which involved the colony in an awkward situation and cost Wolcott a re-election as governor, because the people of the colony believed, most unjustly, that he had been bribed and that the case had been so mismanaged as to render them liable for the losses incurred. The activities of the deputy surveyor and the ship-case furnish evidence for the working of the vice-admiralty court in America; the distribution of the parliamentary grant gives us details as to the financial investments of the colony in England; while the failure of Wolcott to be re-elected governor offers Mr. Bates an opportunity to discuss the difficult problem of the franchise in Connecticut, regarding which we need more information. It is well known that but a small proportion of the adult male population voted for governor and deputies and that the political affairs of "democratic" Connecticut were run by a coterie of prominent

families and individuals, but in what proportion is not clear. Dr. McKinley had no sufficient figures to give for this period, but Mr. Bates thinks that in 1754 the 2564 who voted for Phineas Lyman represent approximately the whole number of freemen voting for nominees, which in a white population of 130,000 would be about one in ten of those who could have voted under a system of manhood suffrage. Elsewhere he puts the number of freemen at one in eight. Thus in 1754, according to this reckoning, the adult males would be 22,000, the freemen 2800, and the voters 2564. These figures may be correct, but in 1766, John Tully of Saybrook put the number of actual voters at "between 7 and 8000 freemen", and in 1767 Dr. Stiles, venturing the guess that the total number of freemen was about 12,000, says that of these 8322 voted, a little more than two-thirds, an estimate in close accord with that of Tully. Eight thousand voters in a population of 160,000 would give a proportion of one in four. Either Mr. Bates has underestimated the number of freemen and wrongly assumed that the votes cast represent the entire body of voting freemen, or else the number of freemen had greatly increased in the ensuing twelve and thirteen years, an increase for which, as far as I know, there is no evidence. In any case there can be no doubt that great electoral apathy existed in Connecticut in colonial times.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

The American Revolution in Our School Text-Books: an Attempt to Trace the Influence of Early School Education on the Feelings toward England in the United States. By CHARLES ALTSCHUL, with an Introduction by JAMES T. SHOTWELL, Professor of History in Columbia University. (New York: George H. Doran Company. 1917. Pp. xi, 168. \$1.00.)

THE author of this interesting study set out to learn from the examination of a limited field in the text-book histories of the United States whether there were prejudices established in the minds of children of this and of earlier generations of Americans through the kind of data taught them about the American Revolution. He wondered, as many have, why the mass of American people rallied to the moral support of France rather than of England in the Great War. Why has the country whose language we speak, whose customs we have followed, whose ideas of liberty we have inherited, and whose legal procedure has determined ours, made so little appeal to the average American? Why has this brave people, changing the very basis of their civilization from a peaceful to a militaristic one in the midst of the most frightful of wars, saving civilization itself from the brutal assault of the Prussian autocracy, and rising to a pinnacle of true fame and glorious service to mankind—why has this noble people won so little sympathy here in the land dominated by their nearest of kin? The answer in part is found by Mr. Altschul